



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2016**

Members Present: Mina Liebert (departed at 11:16am), Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Ron Ilgen, Jason Rupinski (departed at 9:52 a.m.), Hank Scarangella, Gary Bostrom, Scot Hume and Carol Beckman

Members Absent: N/A

Alternates Present: Charlie Dunn (departed at 9:15am)

Alternates Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Chris Lieber, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew

Called to Order: Mina Liebert brought the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Citizen Discussion

Susan Davies (Trails and Open Space Coalition) Announced this evening at 4:30 p.m. the 2016 Heritage Series Events will be hosting the “Mountain Matters to Millennials” program at El Pomar. TOSC, in partnership with the Pikes Peak Road Runners, held the Annual American Discovery Trail Marathon on Monday, September 5th and more than 50% of the participants were from outside of Colorado Springs. The Parks and Trail staff did a great job making sure the Greenway was safe and well maintained.

Approval of Minutes – August 11, 2016

Christi Mehew, Parks Board Assistant, stated Gary Bostrom requested under “Citizen Discussion, Alia Rieker” the date to be changed from “Tuesday, September 7th” to “Tuesday, September 6th”.

Motion – To approve the August 11, 2016 minutes with the above changes included.

1st – Gary Bostrom, 2nd – Carol Beckman, Approved – Unanimous

Action Item

1. Colorado Springs Utilities – Utility Access at Monument Valley Park (Presented by Chris Lieber, Park Development Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included three maps of 17 Valley Place Public Utility Corridor.

- This project was introduced in July of 2016 to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
- Changes to the project since July include the alignments for the corridor being reduced and more of the corridor existing on private property.

Motion: To approve of the request from Colorado Springs Utilities for a public utility corridor across a small portion of Monument Valley Park adjacent to 17 Valley Place.

1st – Scot Hume, 2nd – Carol Beckman, Approved – Unanimous

2. TOPS Working Committee Reappointments – Jason Alwine, Nancy Hobbs, Jeff Mohrmann and Jim Klever (Presented by Chris Lieber, Parks Development Manager)

- The three TOPS liaisons to the TOPS Working Committee (Scot Hume, Jason Rupinski and Charles Castle) are recommending the reappointments of Jason Alwine, Nancy Hobbs and Jeff Mohrmann for a second three-year term and Jim Klever for a one-year term as an alternate to the TOPS Working Committee.
- Hank Scarangella mentioned the TOPS Policy and Procedure Manual states alternates serve a three year term. Chris Lieber will verify this information.

Motion: To approve of the reappointments to the TOPS Working Committee as presented.

1st – Charles Castle, 2nd – Ron Ilgen, Approved – Unanimous

3. Ring the Peak GOCO Grant (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Grant Administrator)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: GOCO's purpose and the planning grant application; Ring the Peak Trail background; trail gaps; existing trail; economic benefits; Ring the Peak supporters; planning grant objectives; Horsethief park; accomplishments; current trail constraints; constraint maps; Bear Creek Watershed and next steps.

- The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department proposes to sponsor a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Connect Initiative grant application, "Complete the Ring Planning Project" on behalf of the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) and Friends of the Peak.
- The \$100,00 grant application will assist with engaging in a planning process to close an eight to twelve mile gap in the Ring the Peak Trail on the southwest side of Pikes Peak. The grant includes a \$10,000 cash match from TOSC and Friends of the Peak and a \$15,000 in-kind match from partner organizations.
- The City would manage the funding while TOSC and Friends of the Peak, as the primary partners, would lead the planning process.
- Trail connections and supporting partnerships are part of the Parks System Master Plan. Ring the Peak Trail circles Pikes Peak with a part of the trail located in Colorado Springs.

- El Paso County will be moving forward to seek approval from County Commissioners for the Ute Pass Trail, a segment of Ring the Peak Trail. The County has obtained a state grant and is considering two implementation grants.
- The City of Victor Public Works Department has stated they do not want trails near the watershed to protect the quality of the water. Conversations have included ideas to keep the reservoir out of view from the trail.
- The grant will be awarded on December 2, 2016 and is for two years. The first year will include consulting work and developing a master plan. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be presented the master plan for recommendation and then proceed to City Council for approval.
- The Forest Service requires an environmental assessment to be conducted as part of the process.

Motion: To support the City's sponsorship of the Ring the Peak Planning Grant application to Great Outdoors Colorado.

1st – Scot Hume, 2nd – Charles Castle, Approved – Unanimous

Karen Palus (Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director) stated this item will be presented at the City Council work session on Monday, September 11th. A few council members have concerns; however, they can be addressed and resolved. Karen requested the attendance of a few Park and Recreation Advisory Board members at this work session. Scot Hume, Jason Rupinski and Mina Liebert volunteered.

4. Rock Island Trail – Numismatic Property Acquisition (Presented by Chris Lieber, Parks Development Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: urban trails system; recent and current investments in the corridor; a map of the property; Legacy Loop- phase 1; Legacy Loop – project schedule; acquisition terms and additional considerations.

- The property is part of the Legacy Loop and one of the last pieces to be acquired for the Rock Island Trail. This site creates an opportunity to connect the Rock Island Trail to the Pikes Peak Greenway.
- The project will require \$424,900 from the TOPS Trails account; however, funding necessary to complete the acquisition has already been appropriated from the TOPS Trails account for this purpose. No additional funding appropriation is necessary to complete the transaction.
- The American Numismatic Association currently occupies the property and is looking for a replacement property. The Parks Department will provide up to \$25,000 to assist the Association with relocation costs.
- Trail construction costs are estimated at \$120,000 and the City has secured funding from the following sources: Great Outdoors Colorado Grant (GOCO), TOPS Trails Category and Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA). The 2017 Capital

Improvement Program (CIP) budget includes recommending additional TOPS funding for construction of the Rock Island Trail Corridor.

- The estimated annual maintenance cost is \$1500. “Adopt a Trail” program and initial cost of maintenance for the building is undetermined.
- The use of the warehouse that exists on the property does not have to be decided during this meeting; however alternatives can be discussed.
- The Parks Department would like to consider requesting proposals to see if the community is interested in the warehouse site along with creating criteria to help meet needs in relation to the trail. The property is zoned R5 and the challenge is access and parking for alternative reuse.
- Another option is demolition of the building with an estimated cost of \$85,000 if a partner is not found for a suitable use of the building.
- This project will be ready for construction in January or February of 2017 with an anticipated closing date within 90 days.
- The American Numismatic Association has found a new site and will pay the difference between the value of the existing site and the new site. The acquisition of their new property is contingent upon selling this property.
- The TOPS Working Committee recommended adding “up to” \$25,000 of relocation costs.
- Several organizations have expressed interest in the building including Kids on Bikes.
- The building could require some substantial improvement costs depending upon the use.
- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would be presented with the recommended option and cost as an action item before proceeding forward.

Charlie Dunn (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Alternate) Kids on Bikes promotes a healthy lifestyle and works with schools in town. They are trying to duplicate some ideas that have worked successfully in Denver in bringing lower end and higher end communities together with community bike centers and programs. This building is an ideal location due to its proximity to the Popcycle Bridge and is a great opportunity.

Andrew VanDerWege (GO West Camps) As a trail user he supports this project to help close this trail gap. Go West Camps is a non-profit organization that serves the youth of Colorado Springs and has expressed interest in this building. They have had conversations with other non-profit organizations about the warehouse and its potential of a multi-use space.

Susan Davies (TOSC) Spoke in support of this opportunity.

Motion: To approve the acquisition of the Property, from the American Numismatic Association, in the amount of \$424,900 with TOPS Trails funds for the advancement of the Rock Island Trail and the Legacy Loop Project.

1st – Scot Hume, 2nd – Charles Castle, Approved – Unanimous

Presentation

5. Ethics Training (Presented by Britt Haley, City Attorney Division Chief)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: origin of city code of ethics; purpose of city code of ethics; why should you care; primary areas of concern – gifts and conflict of interest; gift exceptions; inappropriate hospitality or gifts; conflict of interest general rule; what is a conflict of interest; examples of conflicts of interest and what should you do; independent ethics commission; and the complaints procedure.

7. Downtown Partnership Master Plan Update (Presented by Sarah Harris, Director of Business Development and Economic Vitality)

- The plan integrates the findings and recommendations of numerous completed and ongoing community plans and initiatives.
- A Plan of Development and Master Plan Executive Summary handout was distributed to Board members.
- Page 5 displays Downtown in context of the Legacy Loop trail system.
- Page 6 shows the vision and goals with downtown being the economic driver.
- The Downtown Colorado Springs Vision includes 8 goals. Goal 3 and 8 relates to Parks and the history of downtown.
- Two pieces are included in the process, a Plan of Development and a Master Plan. Susan Edmonson, Downtown Partnership President and CEO, will be at the October Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting asking for Boards recommendation and will then present to City Council in November.
- The plan can be downloaded at www.DowntownCS.com/masterplan.
- Ryan Tefertiller (City of Colorado Springs Planning Manager) The most common master plan is a privately created master plan. If a Master plan covers a wide range of ownerships only two entities can be applicants for the plan. The City is a co-applicant with the Downtown Partnership. The City has other organizations where they have been co-applicants and worked closely with partners and stakeholders to develop a master plan.

Ceremonial Item 10:00 a.m. Time Certain

Tussock Moth Spraying Recognition (Presented by Jay Hein, City Forester)

- A plaque/picture was presented to the partners on the Tussock Moth Spraying project to Brad Bixler (El Paso County), Ron Osborne (Frontier Helicopter), Mitch Martin (Cheyenne Mountain State Park) Fred Dickman (The Broadmoor) and Dennis Will (Forester).

6. Cheyenne Mountain State Park Update (Presented by Mitch Martin, Cheyenne Mountain State Park Ranger)

- Cheyenne Mountain State Park has 2,701 acres, 18 trails that total over 21 miles which allows biking and hiking along with equestrian use on 8 of those trails, 51 full service camp sites and 41 picnic areas.

- The park employs 5 full time employees along with 12 temporary employees over the summer.
- Visitation numbers are increasing along with revenue.
- Camping revenues contribute 50% of the parks total revenue.
- Campgrounds have a 90-100% occupancy rate during the summer months and they are currently looking into a reservation system year round rather than a first-come first serve basis.
- The Top of the Mountain project goal is to help restore the Dixon trail and one mile has been completed of the bottom portion of the trail and should be open soon to the public. The top includes 3.6 miles of trail system and is more challenging to complete due to the steepness. A contractor will be hired to help with the upper portion of this trail.
- Fuel mitigation is a focus and previously treated areas are being re-treated.
- Cabins are being considered for the park along with adding 12-15 campsites.
- 380 volunteers logged over 12,000 hours.
- The park is 100% self-sufficient regarding revenue and expenditures.
- Possible cabin locations would be directly west of the amphitheater and Meadows campground.
- The Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park have been a big advocate of the park and helped contribute financially towards the Dixon Trail along with funding for various projects and programs. They have been instrumental in coordinating the annual banquet for volunteers.
- The challenges for Cheyenne Mountain State Park relate to fuel mitigation and development. Due to the Waldo Canyon fire a program was started in which volunteers were trained to be sawyers with a focus on fuel mitigation. The program has been in place for two years and is successful. A developer will eventually be selling the area around highway 115 up to Cheyenne State Park and it's slated for housing and commercial development. The Parks Department hopes to be considered first for purchasing the area for Open Space when they choose to sell.

Staff Report

8. Budget Update (Presented by Karen Palus, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department)

- The information was provided to the Budget Committee and Mayor by the Parks Department as unfunded requests.
- City Council will be presented this information the first week of October.
- Focus is on the master plan and strategic plan and the significant changes from 2016 to 2017.
- Funds were requested to be reinstated for Tussock Moth spraying in case 2017 requires it along with \$218,000 dollars be budgeted due to the increase in water rates this year.
- A request has been made if there is a remaining amount in the Tussock Moth budget that it be used for street trees.
- Meetings with the Utilities department have been scheduled.

- 15% of the Therapeutic program is traditionally funded through a grant which will be ending soon and alternatives are being discussed.
- Charles Castle requested that Kim King send the Therapeutic program video to Parks Board members.
- The concerns regarding the Therapeutic program have been provided to the Budget Committee and Diane Ridderhof, Parks Operation Administrator, is working on various alternatives which include possible funds from a Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) and Friends groups.
- Four positions have been added to the Parks department due to revenue from the Sky Sox, Switchbacks, anticipated Venezia Park rentals and Pioneers Museum.
- A Conservation Feasibility Study has been completed with the help of consultants from the Trust for Public Land. A small poll was implemented regarding three choices for funding strategies for the Parks department. The poll suggested this is not the time to bring forth a sales tax initiative for Parks and to wait until after the national election. A larger poll was completed focusing on property tax and sales tax and most citizens were adverse to property tax.

Board Business

9. Board Picture (Pictures taken by David Deitemeyer, Park Planner)

Board Business

Ron Ilgen - Stated the Summit House funding continues to progress.

Hank Scarangella – Camp Creek Mitigation project has started and the excavation for the cross beams are being installed south of Gateway Road to Rockledge Ranch and north of Gateway Road. He Suggested the Parks Board have a liaison for the COS Comprehensive Plan project. Chris Lieber stated the leadership of this plan has requested to do a presentation at the next meeting and this would be an opportunity to discuss if a liaison is needed. In addition, he suggested that a Board representative attend Council work sessions regarding Park agenda items to give the rationale behind the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board decisions. Karen Palus was concerned if this is the best use of the Boards time and Kim King suggested the Department can elaborate more in the written agenda on items so Council has more context regarding Park projects and Board decisions. City Council has access to all Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting agendas and minutes.

Charles Castle - Inquired about the progress at Meadows Park Community Center. Kim King stated the sidewalk is completed, walls have been torn down, construction has begun on the restrooms and roof bids are almost completed. He inquired about Platte and Tejon intersection and the flashing lights on Cascade Street. Chris Lieber stated Kathleen Kraeger, City Transportation Manager, is involved with the Platte and Tejon intersection and the change of turn lanes. Kate Brady, City Bike Planner, is involved with the flashing light signs on Cascade Street from a biking perspective.

Gary Feffer – Stated in the absence of Mina Liebert there will not be a LART meeting today and they will resume in November.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 11:19 a.m.

Link to handouts distributed

DRAFT